

## Tuberculosis is alive and well in the USA...

Known more commonly as TB, tuberculosis is an infectious disease that used to be referred to as “consumption” because without effective treatment, people with TB would often waste away. Today TB is nearly always treatable with medication.

TB is becoming more prevalent in the USA due to the globalization of the world, including international travel and immigration.

TB is spread via saliva droplets in the air. The bacteria get in the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, shouts, or spits. It is a respiratory illness that settles in the lungs, producing areas of consolidation which make it difficult to breathe, and producing bloody sputum. Without treatment, TB can become a lethal infection. Therefore, early diagnosis is important.

Requirements for TB tests vary by occupation and educational institutions. Skin tests are available by most primary health care providers and the Gallatin City-County Health Department. Call 582-3100 to make an appointment for a TB skin test at GCCHD.